



June 1, 2016

Returning Drug Counselors to the Schools

Earlier this month, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved my motion to direct the County Executive to work with the Community Services Board (CSB) and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) to evaluate the feasibility of returning the drug counselors to the schools. Read below for more information.

Continuing the Fight Against Illegal Signs

Several years ago, I led the fight to fix a loophole in the state law that allowed roadside advertising and campaign signs along the roadways in Fairfax County. The County has been removing the signs for over a year and notifying chronic violators. I am happy to report that these chronic violators will begin receiving fines and court notices for their continued violations. The signs are not only a traffic safety hazard, but they are a blight on the community.

Second Heroin & Prescription Drug Abuse Town Hall

Supervisor Kathy Smith, School Board Member Jeanette Hough, and I are planning a second **Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse Town Hall** on **Tuesday, June 14th at 7:00 pm**, in the **Centreville High School Auditorium** (6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton). The town hall will raise awareness on the dangers of heroin and prescription drug abuse, discuss the steps being taken to address the crisis, and the practical steps that can be taken by our citizens and their families to reduce the growing epidemic. See below for more information.

Other Important Information & Upcoming Events

See below for more information on:

- **Uber launches "Pooling Together" Campaign**
- **Fairfax County Poll Workers and Visually Impaired Working Session**

- **Public Information Meeting on Rolling Road Widening**
- **Lee Chapel Road Walkway Citizens Information Meeting**
- **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group**
- **Fairfax Commission on Aging Meeting**
- **Springfield Days 2016: June 4th and 5th**

Returning Drug Counselors to the Schools

Earlier this month, after my first Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse Town Hall, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved my motion to direct the County Executive to work with the Community Services Board (CSB) and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) to evaluate the feasibility of returning the drug counselors to the schools. The motion was seconded by Supervisor John Cook and passed unanimously.

In the County, we are seeing a disturbing trend: opioid abusers are becoming younger and younger. In fact, a majority of the overdoses reported to the Supervisors in the past couple of months have involved 16-25 year olds. This problem needs to be combatted not only at home, but in our schools. *(Please see below for information on my next heroin and prescription drug abuse town hall.)*

Three years ago, we took our drug counselors out of Fairfax County Public Schools during a reorganization. The feedback I heard from FCPS principals then and now is that this had a huge, negative impact on high school staff and that the current programs have not been as effective.

I equate this to the impact of having our police School Resource Officers (SROs) in the schools rather than at the police station. SROs are much more effective when they are in the schools, working hands-on with our children - ensuring the students and SROs have easy access to one-another for following up on a case. I believe the same can be said about drug counselors. This is a problem growing among some of our most vulnerable citizens and I believe we must work to put these drug counselors back into our schools where they can be effective. I am pleased the idea is being reviewed by staff.

Continuing the Fight Against Illegal Signs

Several years ago, with assistance from Delegate Dave Albo, I led the fight to fix a loophole in state law that allowed roadside advertising and campaign signs along the roadways in Fairfax County. The County has been removing the signs for over a year and notifying chronic violators. I am happy to report that these chronic violators will begin receiving fines and court notices for their continued violations. The signs are not only a traffic safety hazard, but a blight on the community.

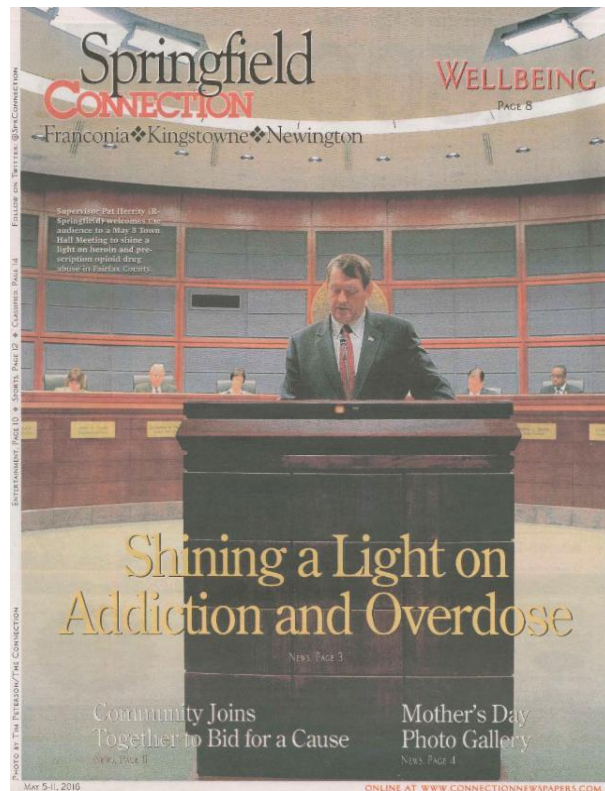
The effort has the unanimous support of the Board of Supervisors and the vast majority of political campaigns and business over the last several years have fully complied. However, there have been a few businesses that continue to violate this law. As of last month, these violators are now getting fined. Hopefully, this financial penalty will be the last bit of encouragement needed for these businesses to stop this illegal, unsafe, and unsightly activity once and for all.

Second Heroin & Prescription Drug Abuse Town Hall

Heroin and prescription drug abuse is in our neighborhood - it is occurring countywide and not just in "bad" neighborhoods. It typically affects young adults - including many high school aged students. Education and public awareness are important parts of combating this growing crisis. **Seventy percent of heroin addicts reportedly start with prescription drugs.**

Supervisor Kathy Smith, School Board Member Jeanette Hough and I are planning a second Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse Town Hall to be held on **Tuesday, June 14th at 7:00 pm**, in the **Centreville High School Auditorium** (6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton, VA 22124). The town hall will raise awareness of the dangers of heroin and prescription drug abuse, discuss the steps being taken to address the crisis, and the practical steps that can be taken by our citizens and their families to reduce the growing epidemic.

There will be presentations by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on what they are seeing at the national level including the warning signs to watch out for, Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) on what we are seeing in our community and their response, Community Services Board (CSB) on how to get help, including their life saving REVIVE! Program, and Substance Abuse & Addiction Recovery Alliance's (SAARA) Nick Yacoub, and Ginny Lovitt with The Chris Atwood Foundation with personal perspectives on addiction, as well as brief updates from the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County and Congresswoman Barbara Comstock's office. We will wrap up the night with a discussion period where the audience can ask questions.



Uber launches "Pooling Together" Campaign - This is Uber's first steps in a year long initiative to ensure the people across the DC area have access to safe, reliable, and affordable rides during the implementation of Metro's SafeTrack plan. Read more by [clicking here](#).

Fairfax County Poll Workers and Visually Impaired Working Session - Often the visually impaired community has wide and varying voting experiences, some pleasant, easy and successful, and others frustrating when the poll staff has no idea about the existing accommodations, where they are in the room, and how to use them. The Fairfax County Board of Elections is hosting a working session on **Monday, June 6th in Conference Rooms 4 and 5** at the **Fairfax County Government Center** at **6:00 pm**. This training session is intended to provide training for both low-vision or blind voters and the election officials so they will serve us better in the general election this coming November.

Public Information Meeting on Rolling Road Widening - The public information meeting to discuss the design for the project to widen Rolling Road from two to four lanes between Old Keene Mill Road and Rolling Road has been set for **Wednesday, June 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm** at **Rolling Valley Elementary School** (6703 Barnack Drive, Springfield). Design work is still underway and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Fairfax County DOT will be presenting what it has completed so far and soliciting comments and feedback from local citizens. VDOT and FCDOT Staff will also be available to answer residents' questions. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Lee Chapel Road Walkway Citizens Information Meeting - Fairfax County will be constructing a walkway along the western side of Lee Chapel Road to complete the missing link between Burke Lake Road and Britford Drive. This project will construct approximately 1,600 linear feet of new sidewalk as well as a new retaining wall along Lee Chapel Road. Intermediate design of this project will be presented and the public will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide input on **Wednesday, June 8 at 7 pm** at the **West Springfield District Government Center** (6140 Rolling Road in Springfield). If you have questions or are unable to attend the meeting and would like to obtain additional information, please contact the Fairfax County Department of Transportation project manager, Tim Conley, at 703-877-5743 or Timothy.Conley@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group - The next *meeting by phone* is on **Tuesday, June 14, 7-8 p.m.** This month's topic is "Caregiver Vacationing: How to Make it Work When You're a Caregiver". Register by calling 703-324-5484, TTY 711.

Fairfax Commission on Aging - The next meeting is on **Wednesday, June 15 at noon** at the Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. (*Please note new meeting location.*) The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more by [clicking here](#). Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

Springfield Days 2016: June 4th and 5th - Springfield Days is an annual springtime tradition that brings together local businesses, organizations and residents to celebrate our community and enjoy family-friendly activities. On the schedule for 2016: Springfield 6K, the beloved PetFest, Springfield Days Market Expo, an enthusiast's car show, the famous Cardboard Boat Regatta and more. For more

information about Springfield Days, visit springfielddays.com. You may also get up-to-date info at facebook.com/springfielddays.